# THE RESOURCE SHARER

MAY 1975 RSTS-11 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER VOL 2 NO 2

*** FROM THE EDITOR ***

THE RSTS SIG WAS VERY ACTIVE AT THE MIAMI DECUS SYMPOSIUM. OVER 80 MEMBERS ATTENDED THE GENERAL SIG MEETING AND SEVERAL SUB-GROUPS WERE FORMED. THE RSTS COMMERCIAL SUB-GROUP AND THE RSTS V4 SUB-GROUP HAD FORMATION SESSIONS. ONE OUTCOME OF THESE SESSIONS WAS A CHANGE IN THE NEWSLETTERS. FROM NOW ON THE NEWSLETTER WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY A GENERAL SECTION BUT ALSO SPECIAL SECTIONS DEVOTED TO EACH OF THE SUB-GROUPS.

IN THE UP COMING MONTHS I HOPE THAT OTHER SUB-GROUPS CAN BE FORMED SUCH AS AN RSTS EDUCATIONAL SUB-GROUP. IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A SUB-GROUP GET IN TOUCH WITH ME.

AS FAR AS NEWS FROM DEC AT DECUS, THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS WERE PROBABLY THE INCLUSION OF COBOL IN THE JULY RELEASE V6 AND THE END OF PLAIN OLD RSTS V4. DICK ANGEL, RSTS PRODUCT MANAGER, HAS KINDLY PROVIDED ME WITH INFORMATION ON BOTH THESE ITEMS THAT IS CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

ONE DECUS SYMPOSIUM IS FINISHED AND IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE NEXT ONE. IT WILL BE HELD IN LOS ANGELES THIS DECEMBER. HOPEFULLY THE RSTS SIG WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD MORE SESSIONS THAT WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO RSTS USERS. DECUS WILL BE SENDING OUT A CALL FOR PAPERS SOMETIME SOON. I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER PRESENTING A PAPER ON THAT SUPER PROJECT YOU HAVE DEVELOPED USING RSTS. IN ADDITION IF YOU WOULD BE BE WILLING TO HELP THE SIG PROVIDE USER LED TUTORIALS ON RSTS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME. SEVERAL SIG MEMBERS HAVE MENTIONED THE NEED FOR TUTORIALS FOR NEW USERS, RSTS V4 USERS, AND ON FILE TECHNIQUES AND PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SIG'S PORTION OF THE DECUS PROGRAM, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

THE USER PROFILE DIRECTORY IS COMING ALONG VERY WELL. I HAVE RECEIVED OVER 75 PROFILES. THEY SHOULD BE READY FOR SENDING BY THE FIRST OF JUNE. PRESENT PLANS ARE TO SEND THEM ONLY TO THOSE INSTALLATIONS WHO SENT IN THEIR PROFILES.

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# CODING STANDARDS,

# SYSTEM CONVENTIONS,

# and

# PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES

I have agreed to temporarily head a committee to work on coding standards, system conventions, and programming techniques.

The purpose of this project is to come up with suggested ways of developing RSTS systems and BASIC-PLUS programs so that they can be more easily understood and used by both the original developer and others.

Since the three topics above cover a lot of ground, hopefully we can split them up for several groups to work on. In the meantime, however, please send me your contributions so that I may put them before the user community in this newsletter. I will try to start the ball rolling with a short general discussion.

I have broken coding standards down into the following items--perhaps you can think of others.

1. Structured programming as in indentation, line numbering, multi-statement lines, and multi-line statements.

2. Standard program layout such as: location and line numbering of documentation, error handling code, subroutines, and functions, etc.

3. Documentation.

4. File standards.

5. Variable naming.

6. Function and subroutine coding.

7. Subroutine argument passing.

8. Error handling.

9. Program package coding and chaining.

System conventions would be: account numbering, functional allocation of libraries, location and organization of system and exercizer programs, special character handling, etc.

Programming techniques is an open area. Some topics of concern would be: coding for minimum space and maximum speed, difficult procedures, and efficient use of variables.

Let me hear from you. More next month.

Harvey Wiggins
Callier Center for
Communication Disorders
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Dallas, TX 75235

>>>>> DEC SPEAKS - RSTS/E <<<<<

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF RSTS/E PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY DICK ANGEL, RSTS PRODUCT MANAGER AT DEC:

RSTS/E: TWO RELEASES, V5C AND V6, ARE OF CURRENT INTEREST TO RSTS USERS . A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH RELEASE, INCLUDING MAJOR FEATURES, AVAILABILITY, PRICING, AND POLICIES ARE GIVEN BELOW:

V5C - CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

THIS RELEASE PRIMARILY SUPPORTS NEW HARDWARE, IE, RJP04 44M WORD DISK SYSTEM, TJU16 9-TRACK MAGNETIC TAPE SYSTEM, AND DH11-AD,AE TERMINAL MULTIPLEXORS. OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS IN DIRECTORY HANDLING AND INCLUSIONS OF BASIC-PLUS CUSPS TO SUPPORT THE RJP04 AND TJU16.

THE MINIMUM HARDWARE REQUIREMENT REMAIN UNCHANGED EXCEPT FOR THE ADDITION OF A SINGLE RJP04 SYSTEM AS AN OPTION IN FULFILLING THE DISK REQUIREMENT.

PRICING IS UNCHANGED-

| | |
|---|---|
| SUPPORTED BINARY LICENSE | $5000 |
| UNSUPPORTED BINARY LICENSE | $3500 |
| SUPPORTED BINARY LICENSE (WITHOUT BINARIES) | $3000 |
| UPGRADE FROM RSTS(V4) | $3500 |

A SUPPORTED BINARY LICENSE INCLUDES ONE TRAINING CREDIT.

SUPPORT CATEGORY IS A; INSTALLATION, REMEDIAL SERVICE, AND ONE YEAR SPR SERVICE. ALSO, ONE YEAR OF STANDARD BINARY PROGRAM UPDATE SERVICE IS INCLUDED WITH THE SUPPORT LICENSE.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES AVAILABLE INCLUDE: (1) THE INFORMATION SERVICE- SPR SERVICE AND THE MONTHLY "SOFTWARE DISPATCH", (2) THE STANDARD BINARY SYSTEM PROGRAM UPDATE SERVICE- AUTOMATIC BINARY UPDATE AND THE INFORMATION SERVICE. EITHER OF THESE SERVICES MAY BE PURCHASED FOLLOWING THE ONE YEAR PERIOD AFTER INSTALLATION OF RSTS/E.

V5C WILL BE SHIPPED AUTOMATICALLY TO ALL CUSTOMERS STILL UNDER THE INITIAL ONE YEAR SUPPORT AGREEMENT OR WHO HAVE SINCE SUBSCRIBED TO THE STANDARD BINARY PROGRAM UPDATE SERVICE.

## >>>>> DEC SPEAKS - RSTS/E (CONT) <<<<<

V6 - AVAILABLE JULY 1975

THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THIS RELEASE INCLUDE SUPPORT FOR THE OPTIONALLY AVAILABLE COBOL-11 LANGUAGE PROCESSOR AND FOR NEW HARDWARE- SPECIFICALLY:

11/10 CENTRAL PROCESSOR, INCLUDING THE ADDRESSABILITY OF UP TO 2 MILLION BYTES OF MAIN MEMORY.

RP02 20M BYTE(10M WORD) DISK SYSTEM.

SEVERAL OTHER SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT ARE INCLUDED IN THE RELEASE. NOTE THAT THE SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR COBOL-11 ALSO SUPPORTS SORT-11 AND TASKBUILDER, BOTH OF WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN THE COBOL-11 PACKAGE.

THE COBOL SYSTEM( AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION) UNDER RSTS/E INCLUDES THE SAME COMPILER AS THE ONE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE UNDER THE RSX-11D OPERATING SYSTEM.

MINIMUM HARDWARE CONFIGURATION FOR RSTS/E V6 IS IDENTICAL TO THAT OF V5C IF COBOL IS NOT REQUIRED. THE MINIMUM MEMORY REQUIREMENT TO SUPPORT COBOL IS 64K WORDS.

THE PRICING OF RSTS V6 IS UNCHANGED FROM V5C; THE PRICE OF SUPPORTED COBOL LICENSE IS $7000 AND, AS NOTED ABOVE, INCLUDES SORT-11 AND THE TASKBUILDER.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR V6 ARE AS DESCRIBED FOR V5C. RELEASE OF V6 OF RSTS/E WILL BE SHIPPED AUTOMATICALLY TO ALL CUSTOMERS STILL UNDER THE INITIAL ONE YEAR SUPPORT AGREEMENT OR WHO HAVE SINCE SUBSCRIBED TO THE STANDARD BINARY PROGRAM UPDATE SERVICE.

USERS WITHOUT A REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIFIC V5C FEATURES MAY OPT TO WAIT UNTIL THEY RECEIVE V6 TO INSTALL A NEW SYSTEM.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP. REPRESENTATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

## *** RSTS COMMERCIAL SUB-GROUP ***

Commercial SIG is now a working organization. Our primary purpose will be the disemination of user experience with hardware and software via the Resource Sharer. Murray Stinson of Scientific Placement, Inc. will be collecting and coordinating your data. Send your problems and/or solutions to Murray and he will send them on for publication.

Murray Stinson
Scientific Placement Inc.
2700 South Post Oak Road
Houston, Texas 77027

Users are encouraged to organize locally to further develop mutual support.

## ***** RSTS V4 USERS UNITE *****

THIS SPECIAL SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR BOTH V4A AND V4B USERS. WITH THE EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON RSTS/E AND THE POSSIBLITY OF TERMINATION OF SUPPORT OF RSTS V4 BY DIGITAL, AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY FOR V4 USERS. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE IN TWO FORMS:

1. INPUT FROM USERS TO THIS SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER.

2. THE RELEASE OF V4 SOURCES AND LISTINGS FROM DEC.

THE FORMER IS A REALITY, BUT WE STILL WORKING WITH DEC ON THE LATER. THE SUCCESS OF THIS IS EFFORT DEPENDS ON YOU. YOU MAY HELP BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER IN TWO WAYS:

1. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY USING V4A OR V4B RETURN THE ATTACHED REPLY CARD TO DECUS.

2. IF YOU HAVE FOUND SOME GOOD TECHNIQUES OR SHORTCUTS WITH V4 SEND TO ME AND I WILL PUT THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER. MY ADDRESS IS:

ROY H. SWATZELL JR.
V.A. HOSPITAL
ROOM 2 R 12
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233

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### *** DID YOU KNOW ***

1. THAT RSTS V4 TREATS "I" THE SAME AS IT TREATS "HELLO"

2. THAT YOU CAN USE "&" INSTEAD OF "PRINT"

3. THAT V4B HAS THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES OVER V4A:

   A NEW SCHEDULER THAT CAN REDUCE YOUR RUN TIME 50% OR MORE.

   A NEW MAGTAPE HANDLER THAT CORRECTS THE PROBLEM OF TWO USERS USING TWO DIFFERENT MAGTAPE DRIVES.

   A NEW RUNTIME SYSTEM.

   BATCH COMMAND STRING FOR SYSGEN THAT CAN SAVE CONSIDERABLE SYSGEN TIME.

   A RSTS/E TYPE PATCH OPTION AT STARTUP TIME.

4. THAT EFFECIENT USE OF CLUTERSIZE CAN SAVE YOU ALOT OF EXECUTION TIME.

5. THAT IF YOU HAVE RC OR RF TYPE SWAPPING DISKS AND RK AS YOUR DK0: ALL RC OR RF ERRORS ARE LOGGED TO DK0: ON THE SYSTAT PRINTOUT.

**** MORE TO COME ****

ROY SWATZELL
(205) 933-8105 EXT 234

>>>>> DEC SPEAKS- RSTS V4 <<<<<

A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY DEC TO DISCONTINUE RSTS-11 AS A SUPPORTED PRODUCT, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1 FOR NEW SALES, WITH INTENT TO DISCONTINUE ALL PRODUCT SUPPORT BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1975.

TO IMPLEMENT THIS DECISION A FINAL RELEASE, V4B, IS IN FIELD TEST AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN ADDITON TO CORRECTING ALL KNOW V4A PROBLEMS, V4B INCLUDES SIGNIFICANT FUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS AND WILL BE OFFERED, FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME, AT A PRICE OF $500. THUS, A CURRENT V4A USER MAY CHOOSE TO (1) DO NOTHING - STAY WITH V4A, OR (2) PURCHASE V4B, OR (3) CONSIDER MOVING TO A RSTS/E SYSTEM.

AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE ALL V4A USERS WILL BE CONTACTED WITH PRECISE DETAILS REGARDING FEATURES, TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND AVAILABILITY.

R.U. ANGEL
RSTS PRODUCT MANAGER
DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP.
146 MAIN ST.
MAYNARD,MA. 01754
(617) 897-5111 EX 4769

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IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE AS MANY RSTS V4 USERS AS POSSIBLE WE NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM YOU:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

I AM CURRENTLY USING: RSTS V4A RSTS V4B (CIRCLE ONE)

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GETTING RSTS V4 LISTINGS: YES NO (CIRCLE ONE)

IF YOU KNOW OF ADDITUNAL SITES USING RSTS V4, PLEASE ENTER THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESS BELOW. YOUR ASSISTANCE WILL HELP MAKE A COMPLETE LIST OF USERS FOR BOTH THE RSTS SIG AND DEC. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS NO KNOWN LIST OF RSTS V4 USERS IN EXISTANCE.

MAIL THIS REPLY TO:

DECUS (RSTS SIG)
146 MAIN ST.
MAYNARD,MASS. 01754

## *** LETTERS ***

DEAR EDITOR:

IN THE FEBRUARY 1975 RSTS SIG NEWSLETTER, YOU STATED THAT THE RESPONSE TIME IN GETTING A FIELD SERVICEMAN TO YOUR SITE WAS A REAL NIGHTMARE, SOMETIMES TAKING AS LONG AS 30 HOURS, AND YOU, THEREFORE, ASKED FOR COMMENTS FROM OTHER RSTS USERS.

WE ARE LOCATED IN CHICAGO, AND ARE SERVICED BY DEC'S FIELD SERVICE, BRANCH 707. LUCKILY FOR US, WE DO NOT SHARE YOUR SAME FEELINGS ABOUT FIELD SERVICE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IF IT WEREN'T FOR DEC'S FIELD SERVICE, I'D BE A VERY UNHAPPY AND FRUSTRATED USER. THE LONGEST RESPONSE TIME WE HAVE EVER HAD WAS 3 HOURS, AND MOST OF THE TIME, THEY ARE IN OUR OFFICE WITHIN HALF AN HOUR. SERVICING APPROX. 380 PDP-11'S WITH ONLY 15 SERVICEMEN, I WOULD SAY THAT OUR FIELD SERVICE IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB. IBM COULDN'T POSSIBLY COME CLOSE TO THAT TYPE OF RESPONSE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TYPE OF SERVICE CONTRACT YOU HAVE WITH DEC. THIS MAY BE THE REASON YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THE BAD RESPONSE TIME. WE HAVE A "CRITICAL APPLICATION" CONTRACT, WHERE DEC HAS TO BE AT OUR SITE WITHIN A MAXIMUM OF 4 HOURS, AND THEREFORE, WOULD GET THE SERVICEMEN AT OUR SITE BEFORE A COMPANY THAT HAS JUST A STANDARD CONTRACT. IT'S THE OLD PHILOSOPHY - YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR.

JOYCE HELLAND
ROBERTS & SCHAEFER COMPANY
120 SOUTH RIVERSIDE PLAZA
CHICAGO,ILL 60606

***EDITOR'S NOTE: YOUR POINTS ARE WELL TAKEN. THE "CRITICAL APPLICATION" CONTRACT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD WAY TO GO (25% ABOVE REGULAR CONTRACT RATE). UNFORTUNATELY IN MY SCHOOL'S CASE WE ARE RULED BY WHAT WE CAN AFFORD, NOT WHAT WE NEED. MURPHY'S LAW APPLIES TO MY ARTICLE ABOUT FIELD SERVICE. JUST BEFORE THE FEB NEWSLETTER WAS MAILED MY FIELD SERVICE RETURNED TO THE GOOD LEVEL, TO WHICH THEY HAD SPOILED ME WHEN I FIRST GOT MY MACHINE.

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DEAR EDITOR:

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE WITH ADDING A FILE-ORIENTED DEVICE TO RSTS. IN PARTICULAR, I AM HOPING TO ADD AN RP11/RP02 DISK PACK TO RSTS-11 V4 RUNNING ON A PDP-11/20, HOPEFULLY AS A PUBLIC DISK. ALTHOUGH THE RP02 IS REFERRED TO IN VARIOUS RSTS DOCUMENTS, DEC INFORMS ME THAT IT IS NOT SUPPORTED UNDER RSTS V4.

DR. J M ARNOLD
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99 EUCLID AVE.
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DEAR EDITOR:

BEING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, WE HAVE HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH STUDENTS "HACKING" OUR RSTS SYSTEM. ONE OF THE METHODS USED TO CIRCUMVENT OUR PASSWORD PROTECTION IS TO (SOMEHOW) CREATE A PRIVILEGED FILE WHICH ACCEPTS A "PPN" AND DOES AN ACCOUNT LOOKUP (FIP 14),PRINTING OUT THE PASWURD. IF OTHER INSTALLATIONS HAVE A SIMILIAR PROBLEM, THEY MAY WISH TO INSTALL THE FOLLOWING PATCH. IT CAUSES THE FIP 14 FUNCTION TO LOOK UP THE CURRENT USER'S ACCOUNTING INFORMATION UNLESS HE IS LOGGED IN UNDER A [1,*] ACCOUNT; THE PRIVILEGED STATUS OF THE FILE WHICH IS RUN IS IGNORED. THIS PATCH IS VALID ONLY UNDER RSTS V5-24, AND ONLY FOR SYSTEMS WITHOUT RESIDENT DIRECTORY LOOKUP CODE. OBTAIN THE STARTING ADDRESS OF <DIR> FROM THE LINK MAP OF OVR.LDA; OBTAIN THE LOCATION OF FIUSER FROM THE RSTS.LDA LINK MAP,MODULE<LOWCOR>. BOOT THE SYSTEM AND ASK FOR THE PATCH OPTION:

```
MODULE NAME? OVR
BASE ADDRESS? [DIR]
OFFSET ADDRESS? 20
OFFSET  OLD      NEW?
000020  105737   ?004767
000022  ??????   ?000720
000024  001011   ?^C EXIT
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```
MODULE NAME? OVR
BASE ADDRESS? [DIR]
OFFSET ADDRESS? 744
OFFSET  OLD      NEW?
000744  0        ?123727
000746  0        ?[FIUSER]+1
000750  0        ?000001
000752  0        ?000207
000754  0        ?^C EXIT
```

ANTON CHERNOFF & PAUL KUNING
LAWRENCE UNVERSITY
APPLETON,WIS 54911

## *** AN OPEN LETTER TO RSTS V4 USERS ***

HOORAY FOR THE EDITOR! SOMEONE HAS FINALLY FOUND THE NERVE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT DEC'S SUPPORT FOR RSTS SYSTEMS. I'VE WANTED TO WRITE AND DO IT MYSELF FOR A LONG TIME, BUT SINCE THIS IS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH A SIG, I WASN'T SURE THAT IT WOULD BE THE THING TO DO. I GUESS ALL I CAN DO NOW IS GRIPE TO THE SIG SINCE COMPLAINING TO DEC FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS HAS NOT PRODUCED THE DESIRED RESULTS. I ONLY HOPE THAT TOGETHER WE CAN APPLY THE PRESSURES NEEDED TO GET DEC MOVING IN OUR DIRECTION.

I PERSONALLY CAN'T GRIPE ABOUT FIELD SERVICE RESPONSE TIME, BUT MY MAJOR COMPLAINT IS WITH SOFTWARE SUPPORT AND DESIGN. FOR TWO YEARS, I FAITHFULLY SENT IN SPR'S ON NUMEROUS BUGS THAT I FOUND IN RSTS-V4A EXPECTING TO RECEIVE SOLUTIONS. WHILE MOST OF THE REPONSES I RECEIVED ADMITTED THE BUGS I HAD FOUND WERE INDEED PROBLEMS WITH RSTS, NOT ONE OF THEM INCLUDED A PATCH OR REAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. AFTER WAITING AS MUCH AS SEVEN MONTHS FOR THESE INVALUABLE RESPONSES, THEY ALL SEEMED TO FIT INTO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. THE BUG YOU FOUND IS ONE OF THE UNDOCUMENTED FEATURES OF RSTS.
2. PLEASE CHANGE ALL YOUR BASIC PLUS PROGRAMS TO AVOID USING A GIVEN FEATURE OF RSTS WHICH HAS SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN IT.
3. THE BUG HAS BEEN DUPLICATED, BUT WE CAN'T DETERMINE WHAT'S CAUSING IT. WE WILL INVESTIGATE FURTHER.
4. THE BUG WILL BE CORRECTED IN THE NEXT RELEASE OF RSTS.

AFTER TWO YEARS OF THAT NONSENSE, I GOT TIRED OF THAT AND QUIT SENDING IN SPR'S. NOW, AFTER I'VE HELPED THEM SO LONG BY ISOLATING BUGS AND HELPING THEM PERFECT RSTS, THEY HAVE THE NERVE TO TELL ME THAT THE NEW RELEASE OF RSTS WHICH I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR SO LONG WILL ONLY RUN 7K PROGRAMS WHICH IS OUT OF THE QUESTION SINCE OVER HALF OF MY PROGRAMS REQUIRE 8K. AND WHAT'S MORE, THEY ARE TAKING OUT THE IMPROVED SCHEDULER WHICH IS THE ONLY THING THAT ALLOWS ME TO RUN ONE-HALF THE NUMBER OF USERS THEY SAID I COULD RUN ON MY 11/20 . NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM BITTER, AND I THINK RIGHTLY SO.

IN THE HISTORY OF RSTS-V4A, DEC HAS PUBLISHED TO MY KNOWLEDGE, ONLY SEVEN PATCHES TO THE V4A CODE WHILE ADMITTING TO DOZENS AND DOZENS OF BUGS. OF THESE SEVEN PATCHES, SEVERAL OF THEM WERE INCORRECT, AND ONE OF THEM, THE "DEC-TAPE DATE PATCH", IS STILL INCORRECT AFTER RE-PUBLISHING IT THREE OR FOUR TIMES.

I URGE ALL RSTS USERS TO STAND TOGETHER IN RESISTING THE INTOLERABLE DEATH OF RSTS VERSION 4. RSTS VERSION 5 USERS SHOULD HELP US TOO, BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T, THEN IT WILL BE ALL THE EASIER FOR DEC TO TREAT THEM IN THE SAME MANNER WHEN THEY ANNOUNCE A NEW PROCESSOR AND SOFTWARE TO REPLACE THE 11/40 AND 45 AND RSTS/E. AFTER ALL, THREE YEARS AGO, MY 11/20 WAS "THE MACHINE OF THE FUTURE" AND RSTS V4A-12 WAS BRAND NEW. PLEASE HELP! DON'T LET DEC GET AWAY WITH THIS! IF YOU DON'T LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE CONCERNED, THEY WILL THINK WE ARE HAPPY WITH THEIR POLICY OF PULLING THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER THEIR GOOD CUSTOMERS OF JUST THREE YEARS AGO.

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